

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 831 415 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
25.03.1998 Bulletin 1998/13

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G06K 7/08, G06K 19/07

(21) Application number: 97114751.7

(22) Date of filing: 26.08.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

(30) Priority: 20.09.1996 JP 250154/96

(71) Applicant:
KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA
Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken 210 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• Yokota, Tsuneshi,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)
• Iwata, Kazuki,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)
• Sudo, Kiyohito,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)

(74) Representative:
Blumbach, Kramer & Partner GbR
Radeckestrasse 43
81245 München (DE)

(54) No-battery information storage medium capable of efficiently transmitting data

(57) A no-battery information storage medium (100) has a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the medium. One transmission/reception antenna coil (101) performs transmission/reception. A first full-wave rectifying circuit (11) is constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil (101). A second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) is constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave

rectifying circuit (11), connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil (101). A power generating means (103) is connected to the output of the first full-wave rectifying circuit to generate power to be used inside the information storage medium (100). A transmission control means (105) is connected to the output of the second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) to substantially change a current in the transmission/reception antenna coil in accordance with transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

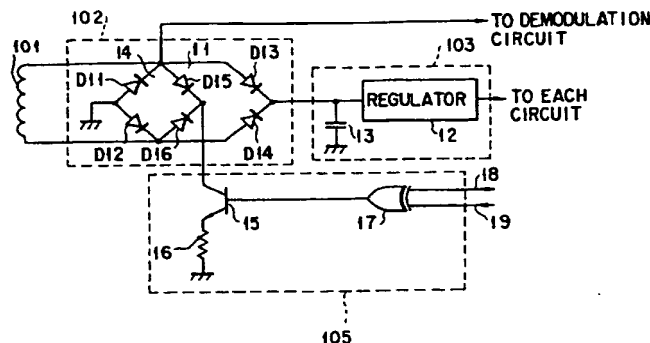


FIG. 2

EP 0 831 415 A2

Description

The present invention relates to an information storage medium and, more particularly, to a portable no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function, e.g., a no-battery radio card or a no-battery radio tag.

Recently, a so-called no-battery radio card has been developed and put to practical use as a portable no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function.

In a radio card system using radio cards of this type, a radio card reader/writer is used to perform radio transmission/reception between radio cards so as to perform predetermined information processing, e.g., transmission of power and transmission/reception of data, with respect to the radio cards.

In such a conventional radio card, a circuit having an arrangement like the one shown in FIG. 7 or 8 is known as a scheme for modulating data and transmitting the modulated data to the radio card reader/writer while receiving power transmitted by radio waves from the radio card reader/writer.

The circuit shown in FIG. 7 will be described. Reference numeral 1 denotes the transmission/reception antenna coil of a radio card.

A capacitor 2 and the AC input terminals of a full-wave rectifying circuit 3 constituted by diodes D1 to D4 connected to each other by bridging connection are connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil 1.

One DC output terminal (negative side) of the full-wave rectifying circuit 3 is grounded, and the other DC output terminal (positive side) is connected to a stabilizing power supply section 5 through a diode 4 with the polarities shown in FIG. 7.

The stabilizing power supply section 5 generates power to be supplied to the respective portions in the radio card.

A smoothing capacitor 6 is connected between ground and the node of the diode 4 and the stabilizing power supply section 5.

The collector of an npn transistor 7 is connected to the node of the full-wave rectifying circuit 3 and the diode 4.

The emitter of the npn transistor 7 is grounded through a resistor 8. Transmission data is input to the base of the transistor 7.

The circuit shown in FIG. 8 will be described below. Reference numeral 1 denotes the transmission/reception antenna coil of a radio card.

A capacitor 2 and the AC input terminals of a full-wave rectifying circuit 3 constituted by diodes D1 to D4 connected to each other by bridging connection are connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil 1.

One DC output terminal (negative side) of the full-wave rectifying circuit 3 is grounded, and the other DC

output terminal (positive side) is connected to a stabilizing power supply section 5.

The stabilizing power supply section 5 generates power to be supplied to the respective portions in the radio card.

A smoothing capacitor 6 is connected between ground and the node of the diode 4 and the stabilizing power supply section 5.

A series circuit of a resistor 9 and a transistor (FET) 10 is connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil 1.

Transmission data is input to the gate of the transistor 10.

In the circuit scheme in FIG. 7, transmission data is input to the node of the full-wave rectifying circuit 3 and the diode 4 through the npn transistor 7 to perform transmission.

In this case, however, when a radio wave is received and rectified by the transmission/reception antenna coil 1 and smoothed by the capacitor 6, and a power supply voltage is obtained from the radio wave by the stabilizing power supply section 5, a voltage drop (0.7V or higher), i.e., a voltage loss, occurs in the diode 4.

When the respective portions in the radio card are to be operated at 3V or lower, about 2V, this voltage drop in the diode 4 cannot be neglected.

The power transmitted from the radio card reader/writer must be increased by the amount corresponding to this voltage drop loss. Such an increase in power is not desirable when power transmission is performed by using weak radio waves without requiring any license based on the Radio Law.

In the circuit scheme in FIG. 8, the transistor 10 is turned on/off in accordance with transmission data to apply load variations to the transmission/reception antenna coil 1 through the resistor 9, thereby performing transmission.

In this case, however, since transmission is performed while radio waves required to generate power are received from the radio card reader/writer, a voltage having an amplitude twice or more that of a rectifying power output from the full-wave rectifying circuit 3 is applied between the two terminals of the transistor 10, posing a problem in the formation of a one-chip IC or the like in terms of breakdown voltage.

Furthermore, in the circuit scheme in FIG. 8, since positive and negative voltages with respect to the reference potential (ground potential) of generated power are applied to the switching transistor 10, a switching operation is difficult to perform.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of capable of efficiently generating power to be used inside from received radio waves, and efficiently transmitting data while sharing some rectifying elements of a full-wave rectifying circuit.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the information storage medium, comprising:

one transmission/reception antenna coil for performing transmission/reception;
 a first full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 a second full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 power generating means, connected to an output of the first full-wave rectifying circuit, for generating power to be used inside the information storage medium; and
 constant-current driver means, connected to an output of the second full-wave rectifying circuit, for performing transmission by extracting a predetermined current from an output from the second full-wave rectifying circuit in accordance with transmission data.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the information storage medium, comprising:

one transmission/reception antenna coil for performing transmission/reception;
 a first full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 a second full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 power generating means, connected to an output of the first full-wave rectifying circuit, for generating power to be used inside the information storage medium; and
 switching means which is connected to an output of the second full-wave rectifying circuit and turned on/off in accordance with transmission data to

change a current in the transmission/reception antenna coil in accordance with the transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the information storage medium, comprising:

first and second transmission/reception antenna coils for performing transmission/reception;
 a first full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 a second full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;
 a third full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying element connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil;
 a fourth full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the third rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil;
 power generating means, connected to outputs of the first and third full-wave rectifying circuits, for generating power to be used inside the information storage medium; and
 first and second constant-current driver means, connected to outputs of the second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits, for performing transmission by extracting predetermined currents from outputs from the second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits in accordance with identical transmission data.

According to further still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the information storage medium, comprising:

first and second transmission/reception antenna coils for performing transmission/reception;

a first full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;

a second full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil;

a third full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying element connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil;

a fourth full-wave rectifying circuit constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the third rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit, connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil;

power generating means, connected to outputs of the first and third full-wave rectifying circuits, for generating power to be used inside the information storage medium; and

first and second switching means which are respectively connected to outputs of the second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits and turned on/off in accordance with identical transmission data to change currents in the first and second transmission/reception antenna coils in accordance with the transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

This invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of a radio card system to which a radio card as an information storage medium according to an embodiment of the present invention is applied;

FIG. 2 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of the radio card of the first embodiment, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit;

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of a radio card of the second embodiment, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit;

FIGS. 4A to 4H are timing charts showing examples of operation waveforms at the main portions in a coding circuit in the second embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of a radio card of the third embodiment, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit;

FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of a

radio card of the fourth embodiment, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit;

FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of a conventional radio card, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit; and

FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a portion, of another conventional radio card, which corresponds to a full-wave rectifying circuit and a modulation circuit.

Reference will now be made in detail to the presently preferred embodiments of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several drawings.

The embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying drawing.

FIG. 1 shows the arrangement of a radio card system to which a radio card as an information storage medium according to the present invention is applied.

This radio card system can be roughly divided into a portable no-battery radio card 100 having a radio communication function and a radio card reader/writer 200 serving as an information processing apparatus.

The radio card 100 is designed to decode commands from the radio card reader/writer 200 and write/transmit data. The radio card 100 includes a loop transmission/reception antenna 101, a full-wave rectifying circuit 102, a smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 serving as a power generating means, a demodulation circuit 104, a modulation circuit 105, a nonvolatile memory 106 serving as a storage means, and a control circuit 107 constituted by a CPU and the like and designed to control these components.

The radio card reader/writer 200 is designed to transmit read and write commands to the radio card 100, process read data, and transmit write data. The radio card reader/writer 200 includes a transmission/reception antenna coil 201, an amplifying circuit 202, a demodulation circuit 203, a modulation circuit 204, a driver 205, an interface circuit 206, and a control circuit 207 constituted by a CPU and the like and designed to control these components.

The operation of reading data from the radio card 100 in this arrangement will be described first.

The control circuit 207 of the radio card reader/writer 200 generates a read command, and sends it to the modulation circuit 204.

The modulation circuit 204 modulates the read command according to an arbitrary modulation scheme, and sends the modulated data to the driver 205.

The driver 205 amplifies the modulated data, to the degree to which the data can be radiated into space, and then sends the data as a modulated wave to the transmission/reception antenna coil 201, together with a

power signal for generating power in the radio card.

The modulated wave radiated from the transmission/reception antenna coil 201 into space is received by the transmission/reception antenna 101 of the radio card 100. The received wave is sent to the full-wave rectifying circuit 102.

The full-wave rectifying circuit 102 rectifies the received modulated wave, and sends the rectified output to the smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103.

The smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 smoothes the output from the full-wave rectifying circuit 102 to generate a stabilized DC voltage, and applies the voltage as operation power to the respective circuits in the radio card 100.

Meanwhile, the demodulation circuit 104 demodulates the modulated data from the demodulated wave received through the transmission/reception antenna 101, and sends the demodulated data to the control circuit 107.

The control circuit 107 performs command analysis on the basis of the demodulated data. Upon decoding the contents of the command as a read command, the control circuit 107 reads out predetermined data from the nonvolatile memory 106 in which data is stored, and sends the readout data as transmission data to the modulation circuit 105.

The modulation circuit 105 modulates the transmission data, and supplies the modulated data to the transmission/reception antenna 101 through the full-wave rectifying circuit 102.

The modulated wave as the transmission data radiated from the transmission/reception antenna 101 into space is received by the transmission/reception antenna coil 201 of the radio card reader/writer 200.

The signal received through the transmission/reception antenna coil 201 is amplified by the amplifying circuit 202. The amplified signal is sent to the demodulation circuit 203 to be demodulated.

The demodulated data is sent to the control circuit 207 to be subjected to necessary processing (e.g., checking whether the data is properly received, and checking the presence/absence of errors). Thereafter, the data is output outside through the interface circuit 206, as needed.

The operation of writing data in the radio card 100 will be described next.

The control circuit 207 of the radio card reader/writer 200 generates a write command and write data, and sends them to the modulation circuit 204.

The modulation circuit 204 modulates the write command the write data according to an arbitrary modulation scheme, and sends the modulated data to the driver 205.

The driver 205 amplifies the modulated data to the degree to which the data can be radiated into space, and then sends the amplified data as a modulated wave to the transmission/reception antenna coil 201, together with a power signal for generating power in the radio

card 100.

The modulated wave radiated from the transmission/reception antenna coil 201 into space is received by the transmission/reception antenna 101 of the radio card 100.

The full-wave rectifying circuit 102 rectifies the modulated wave received through the transmission/reception antenna 101, and sends the rectified output to the smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103.

The smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 rectifies the output from the full-wave rectifying circuit 102 to generate a stabilized DC voltage, and applies it as operation power to the respective circuits in the radio card 100.

Meanwhile, the demodulation circuit 104 demodulates the modulated data from the modulated wave received through the transmission/reception antenna 101, and sends the demodulated data to the control circuit 107.

The control circuit 107 performs command analysis on the basis of the demodulated data. Upon decoding the contents of the command as a write command, the control circuit 107 writes the write data, which is sent after the write command, at a predetermined address in the nonvolatile memory 106.

A portion, of the radio card 100, which is the main part of the present invention and corresponds to the full-wave rectifying circuit 102 and the modulation circuit 105 will be described in detail next.

The first embodiment of the present invention will be described first with reference to FIG. 2.

Referring to FIG. 2, the AC input terminals of a first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 constituted by diodes D11, D12, D13, and D14 as rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection are connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna 101.

One DC output terminal (negative side) of the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 is grounded, and the other DC output terminal (positive side) is connected to the input terminal of a regulator 12 as a part of the smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103.

A smoothing capacitor 13 is connected between ground and the node of the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 and the regulator 12.

The AC input terminals of a second full-wave rectifying circuit 14 are connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna 101. The second full-wave rectifying circuit 14 is formed by connecting additional diodes D15 and D16 and two shared diodes of the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11, i.e., the two diodes D11 and D12 whose anodes are commonly connected and grounded, to each other by bridging connection.

In this case, the first and second full-wave rectifying circuits 11 and 14 constitute the full-wave rectifying circuit 102 in FIG. 1.

The collector of an npn transistor 15 as a part of a constant-current driver means is connected to the other

DC output terminal (positive side) of the second full-wave rectifying circuit 14.

The emitter of the npn transistor 15 is grounded through a resistor 16.

An output from an exclusive OR circuit 17 is input to the base of this transistor 15.

Transmission data 18 supplied from the control circuit 107 in FIG. 1 and a subcarrier 19 obtained by frequency-dividing a received carrier (carrier frequency) to one n th (n is an integer) are input to the respective input terminals of the exclusive OR circuit 17.

In this case, the transistor 15, the resistor 16, and the exclusive OR circuit 17 constitute the modulation circuit 105 in FIG. 1.

In this arrangement, a modulated wave received through the transmission/reception antenna 101 is rectified by the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 constituted by the diodes D11, D12, D13, and D14. The rectified output is sent to the smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 constituted by the regulator 12 and the capacitor 13.

The smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 smoothes the output from the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 to generate a stabilized DC voltage, and applies it as operation power to the respective circuits in the radio card 100.

The transmission data 18 supplied from the control circuit 107 is input to the exclusive OR circuit 17, together with the subcarrier 19 obtained by, for example, frequency-dividing a carrier (carrier frequency) received through the transmission/reception antenna 101 to one n th (n is an integer). As a result, the transmission data 18 is two-phase-modulated and input to the base of the transistor 15.

Since the transistor 15 is a part of the constant-current drive circuit, when a constant current corresponding to the two-phase-modulated transmission data is extracted from the output from the second full-wave rectifying circuit 14 constituted by the additional diodes D11, D12, D15, and D16, the antenna current in the transmission/reception antenna 101 is changed in accordance with the transmission data. With this operation, the data is transmitted.

The second embodiment of the present invention will be described next with reference to FIG. 3.

The second embodiment differs from the first embodiment only in the arrangement of a modulation circuit 105. For this reason, the same reference numerals denote the same parts in these embodiments, and a description thereof will be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 3, the drain of a transistor (FET) 22 is connected to the other DC output terminal (positive side) of a second full-wave rectifying circuit 14 through a resistor 21.

The source of the transistor 22 is grounded.

An output from a coding circuit 23 is input to the gate of the transistor 22.

The resistor 21 and the transistor 22 constitute a switching means.

For example, the coding circuit 23 is a conventional biphase coding circuit constituted by a D-type flip-flop circuit 26, an OR circuit 27, NOR circuits 28 and 29, an inverter circuit 30, and the like. The coding circuit 23 receives transmission data 18, a first clock pulse 24, and a second clock pulse 25 having a frequency twice that of the first clock pulse 24.

In this arrangement, a full-wave rectifying circuit 102 and a smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 operate in the same manner as in the first embodiment. The operation of the modulation circuit 105 will therefore be described below.

The transmission data 18 supplied from a control circuit 107 is coded by the coding circuit 23 and supplied to the gate of the transistor 22.

In accordance with this coded transmission data, the transistor 22 is turned on/off, thus performing a switching operation.

With this switching operation of the transistor 22, the current in a transmission/reception antenna 101 is changed in accordance with the coded transmission data through the second full-wave rectifying circuit 14, thereby transmitting the data.

In this case, as described above, the switching means is constituted by the transistor 22, which is turned on/off in accordance with the transmission data, and the resistor 21 series-connected to the transistor 22. The modulated current in the transmission/reception antenna 101, which is modulated by the transmission data, is substantially determined by the value of the resistor 21 series-connected to the transistor 22 of the switching means.

FIGS. 4A to 4H show examples of operation waveforms at the main portions of the coding circuit 23.

FIGS. 4A to 4C respectively show the waveforms of the first clock pulse 24, the second clock pulse 25, and the transmission data 18.

FIGS. 4D to 4G respectively show the waveforms of outputs from the NOR circuits 28 and 29, the OR circuit 27, and the D-type flip-flop circuit 26.

FIG. 4H shows the waveform of a transmission current in the transmission/reception antenna 101.

The third embodiment of the present invention will be described next with reference to FIG. 5.

The third embodiment differs from the first embodiment in that two pairs of transmission/reception antenna coils are used. For this reason, the same reference numerals in the third embodiment denote the same parts as in the first embodiment, and a description thereof will be omitted.

Recently, efforts have been made to standardize proximity type contactless IC cards complying with ISO standards. A scheme for realizing contactless IC cards has been proposed, in which two pairs of transmission/reception antenna coils 101a, 101b, 201a, and 201b are used, as shown in FIG. 5, to transmit power from a reader/writer 200A to a (radio) IC card 100A and transmit/receive data therebetween by magnetic cou-

pling.

According to this embodiment, therefore, there is provided the (radio) IC card 100A which is designed to generate power and transmit data and can be suitably applied to the scheme using two pairs of transmission/reception antenna coils.

Referring to FIG. 5, the first and second transmission/reception antenna coils 201a and 201b of the reader/writer 200A are respectively connected to first and second drivers 205a and 205b and arranged according to a predetermined two-dimensional positional relationship.

The same arrangement as that in the first embodiment shown in FIG. 2 is connected to the two terminals of the first transmission/reception antenna coil 101a.

Similar to the first transmission/reception antenna coil 101a, the AC input terminals of a third full-wave rectifying circuit 31 constituted by diodes D21, D22, D23, and D24 as rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection are connected to the two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil 101b.

One DC output terminal (negative side) of the third full-wave rectifying circuit 31 is grounded, and the other DC output terminal (positive side) is connected to the node of the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 and a regulator 12.

The AC input terminals of a fourth full-wave rectifying circuit 32 are connected to the two terminals of the second transmission/reception antenna coil 101b. The fourth full-wave rectifying circuit 32 is formed by connecting two additional diodes D25 and D26 and two shared diodes of the diodes constituting the third full-wave rectifying circuit 31, i.e., the two diodes D21 and D22 whose anodes are commonly connected and grounded, to each other by bridging connection.

The collector of an npn transistor 33 as a part of a constant-current driver means is connected to the other DC output terminal (positive side) of the fourth full-wave rectifying circuit 32.

The emitter of the transistor 33 is grounded through a resistor 34.

An output from an exclusive OR circuit 17 is input to the base of the transistor 33.

In this arrangement, a rectified output from the first full-wave rectifying circuit 11 and a rectified output from the third full-wave rectifying circuit 31 are sent to a smoothing/stabilizing circuit 103 to be processed in the same manner as described above. In addition, this scheme uses two pairs of transmission/reception antenna coils. Therefore, a more stable DC voltage can be generated.

As in the above case, transmission data 18 is input to the exclusive OR circuit 17 to be two-phase modulated, and the modulated data is input to the bases of the transistors 15 and 33.

Since both the transistors 15 and 33 are respectively parts of the constant-current drive circuits, when

constant currents corresponding to the two-phase-modulated transmission data are extracted from outputs from a second full-wave rectifying circuit 14 constituted by additional diodes D11, D12, D15, and D16 and the fourth full-wave rectifying circuit 32 constituted by diodes D21, D22, D25, and D26, the antenna currents in the first and second transmission/reception antenna coils 101a and 101b are changed in accordance with the transmission data. With this operation, the data is transmitted.

The fourth embodiment of the present invention will be described next with reference to FIG. 6.

Similar to the third embodiment, the fourth embodiment differs from the second embodiment in that two pairs of transmission/reception antenna coils are used. For this reason, the same reference numerals in the fourth embodiment denote the same parts as in the second and third embodiments, and a description thereof will be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 6, the drain of a transistor (FET) 36 is connected to the other DC output terminal (positive side) of a fourth full-wave rectifying circuit 32 through a resistor 35. The source of the transistor 36 is grounded. An output from a coding circuit 23 is input to the gate of the transistor 36.

In this arrangement, transmission data 18 is coded by the coding circuit 23 and supplied to the gates of resistors 22 and 36.

With this operation, the transistors 22 and 36 are simultaneously turned on/off in accordance with the coded transmission data, thus performing switching operations.

With the switching operations of the transistors 22 and 36, currents in first and second transmission/reception antenna coils 101a and 101b are changed in accordance with the coded transmission data through second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits 14 and 32, thereby transmitting the data.

As has been described above, according to the above embodiments, the no-battery radio card can efficiently generate internal power from received radio waves, and can efficiently transmit data while sharing some diodes of the full-wave rectifying circuit.

In addition, since the data transmission method is independent of the power generating means, data can be transmitted without being influenced by the capacity of the smoothing capacitor and the amount of current consumed.

In the prior art shown in FIG. 7, although transmission can be efficiently performed, a serious problem is posed in terms of the voltage drop loss of received power which is caused by the diode 4. The above embodiments can solve this problem.

In the prior art shown in FIG. 8, a voltage having an amplitude twice or more that of a rectified output voltage is applied between the two terminals of the transistor 10 for transmission, a problem is posed in the formation of an IC. The data transmission circuit of each embodi-

ment described above can also solve this problem.

On the no-battery radio card side, data with a relatively low degree of modulation is transmitted while radio waves are received to generate power. The data can be properly received and demodulated on the reader/writer side by modulating the transmission data into a two-phase-modulated signal on the card side by using a frequency which is one n th (n is an integer) a carrier frequency and obtained by frequency-dividing the carrier frequency by at least $1/8$ in synchronism with the received radio wave.

In each embodiment described above, as shown in FIGS. 4A to 4G, transmission data as an NRZ (non-return to zero) signal is subjected to differential biphase coding to allow proper reception and demodulation of even transmission data with a low degree of modulation on the reader/writer side.

If identical transmission data are transmitted from the first and second transmission/reception antenna coils, the data can be stably received on the radio card reader/writer side by providing a reception amplifying circuit and a demodulation circuit for one of the opposing two transmission (reception) antenna coils on the radio card reader/writer side.

In addition, according to each embodiment described above, since the full-wave rectifying circuit for generating power and the full-wave rectifying circuit for transmitting data are not separately arranged, but share some components, the circuits can be greatly simplified.

Each embodiment described above is characterized in that the switching means included in the transmission control means is constituted by the transistor which is turned on/off in accordance with transmission data, and the resistive element series-connected to the transistor, and the modulated current based on the transmission data and flowing in the transmission/reception antenna coil is substantially determined by the value of the resistive element series-connected to the transistor of the switching means.

As has been described in detail above, according to the present invention, there is provided a no-battery information storage medium having a radio communication function of capable of efficiently generating internal power from received radio waves, and efficiently transmitting data while sharing some rectifying elements of a full-wave rectifying circuit.

Claims

1. A no-battery information storage medium (100) having a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside said information storage medium, comprising one transmission/reception antenna coil (101) for performing transmission/reception, a first full-wave rectifying circuit (11) constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by

bridging connection and connected to two terminals of said transmission/reception antenna coil, and power generating means (103), connected to an output of said first full-wave rectifying circuit, for generating power to be used inside said information storage medium (100), characterized in that said information storage medium (100) further comprises:

a second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of said four rectifying elements constituting said first full-wave rectifying circuit (11), connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of said transmission/reception antenna coil (101); and transmission control means (105), connected to an output of said second full-wave rectifying circuit (14), for substantially changing a current in said transmission/reception antenna coil in accordance with transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

2. A medium according to claim 1, characterized in that said transmission control means (105) comprises constant-current driver means (15, 16), connected to the output of said second full-wave rectifying circuit (14), for extracting a predetermined current from an output of said second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) in accordance with the transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.
3. A medium according to claim 1, characterized in that said transmission control means (105) comprises switching means (21, 22) which is connected to the output of said second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) and turned on/off in accordance with the transmission data to change a current in said transmission/reception antenna coil (101) in accordance with the transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.
4. A medium according to claim 2, characterized in that the transmission data is two-phase-modulated by using a frequency which is one n th (n is an integer) a carrier frequency of a reception radio wave received through said transmission/reception antenna coil (101) and obtained by frequency-dividing the carrier frequency by at least $1/8$ in synchronism with the reception radio wave, and is transmitted from said transmission/reception antenna coil (101) through said constant-current driver means (15, 16).
5. A medium according to claim 2, characterized in that the transmission data is transmitted from said transmission/reception antenna coil through said

constant-current driver means (15, 16) after predetermined coding of the data is performed.

6. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said two rectifying elements, of said first full-wave rectifying circuit (11), which are shared by said second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) are two rectifying elements (D11, D12) each having one electrode commonly connected and grounded.
7. A medium according to claim 3, characterized in that said switching means (21, 22) comprises a transistor (22) which is turned on/off in accordance with the transmission data, and a resistive element (21) series-connected to said transistor, and a modulated current in said transmission/reception antenna coil (101) which is modulated by the transmission data is substantially determined by a value of said resistive element (21) series-connected to said transistor (22) of said switching element (21, 22).
8. A medium according to claim 1, characterized in that said information recording medium further comprises:
 - a second transmission/reception antenna coil (101b) for performing transmission/reception;
 - a third full-wave rectifying circuit (31) constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to two terminals of said second transmission/reception antenna coil (101b); and
 - a fourth full-wave rectifying circuit (32) constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of said four rectifying elements constituting said third full-wave rectifying circuit (31), connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of said second transmission/reception antenna coil (101b), and
 - said power generating means (103) is connected to outputs of said first and third full-wave rectifying circuits (11, 31) to generate power used inside said information storage medium (100).
9. A medium according to claim 8, characterized in that said transmission control means (105) comprises first and second constant-current driver means (15, 16, 33, 34), connected to outputs of said second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits, for extracting predetermined currents from outputs of said second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits (14, 32) in accordance with identical transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

10. A medium according to claim 8, characterized in that said transmission control means (105) comprises first and second switching means (21, 22, 35, 36) which are connected to outputs of said second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits (14, 32) and turned on/off in accordance with identical transmission data to change currents in said first and second transmission/reception antenna coils (101a, 101b) in accordance with the transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.
11. A medium according to any one of claims 8 to 10, characterized in that said two rectifying elements, of each of said first and third full-wave rectifying circuits (11, 31), which are shared by said second and fourth full-wave rectifying circuits (14, 32) are two rectifying elements (D11, D12, D21, D22) each having one electrode commonly connected and grounded.

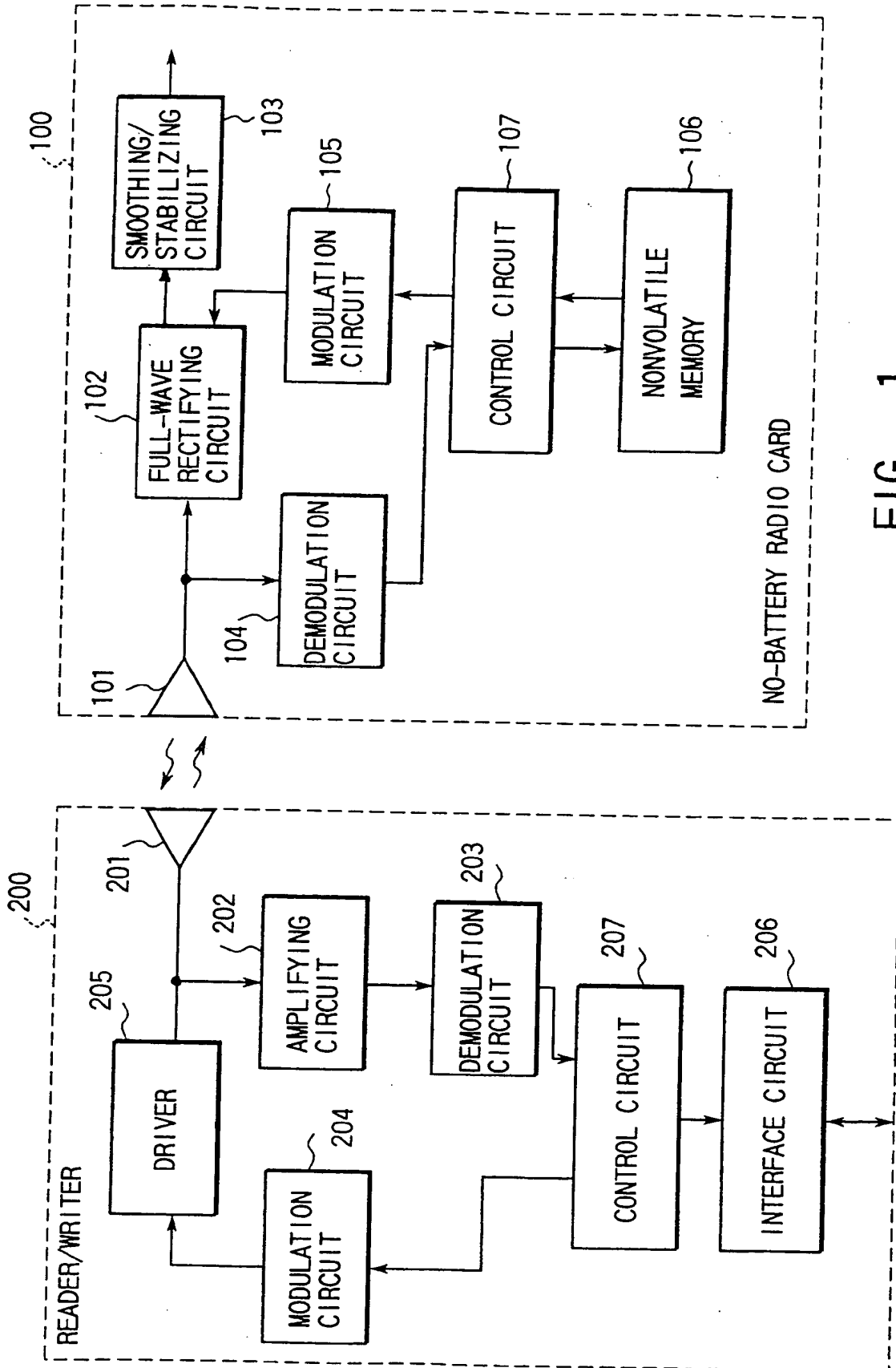


FIG. 1

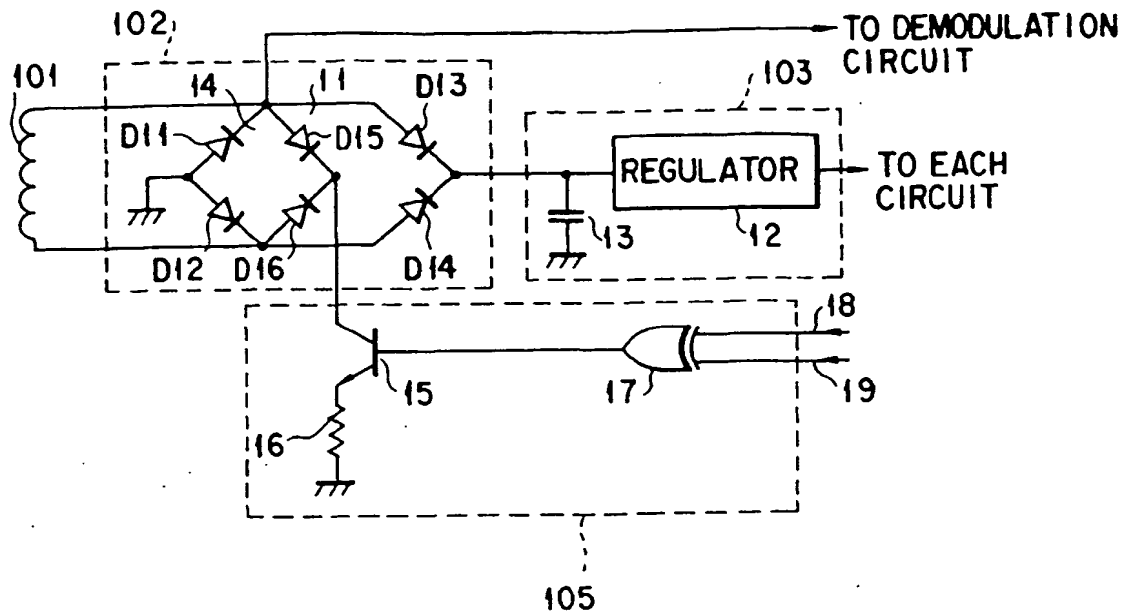


FIG. 2

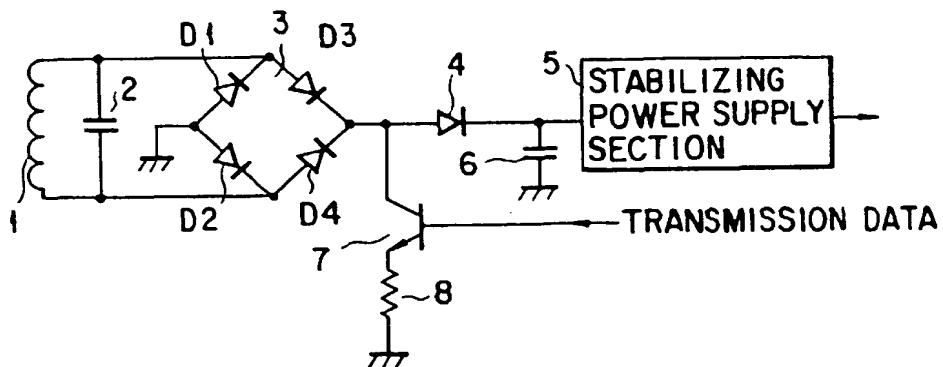


FIG. 7

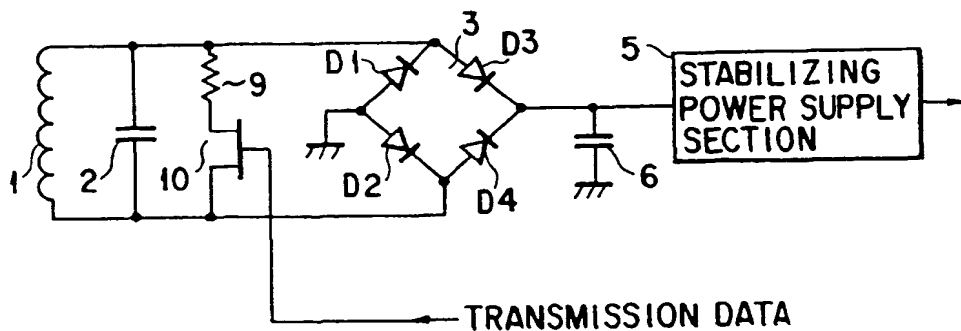


FIG. 8

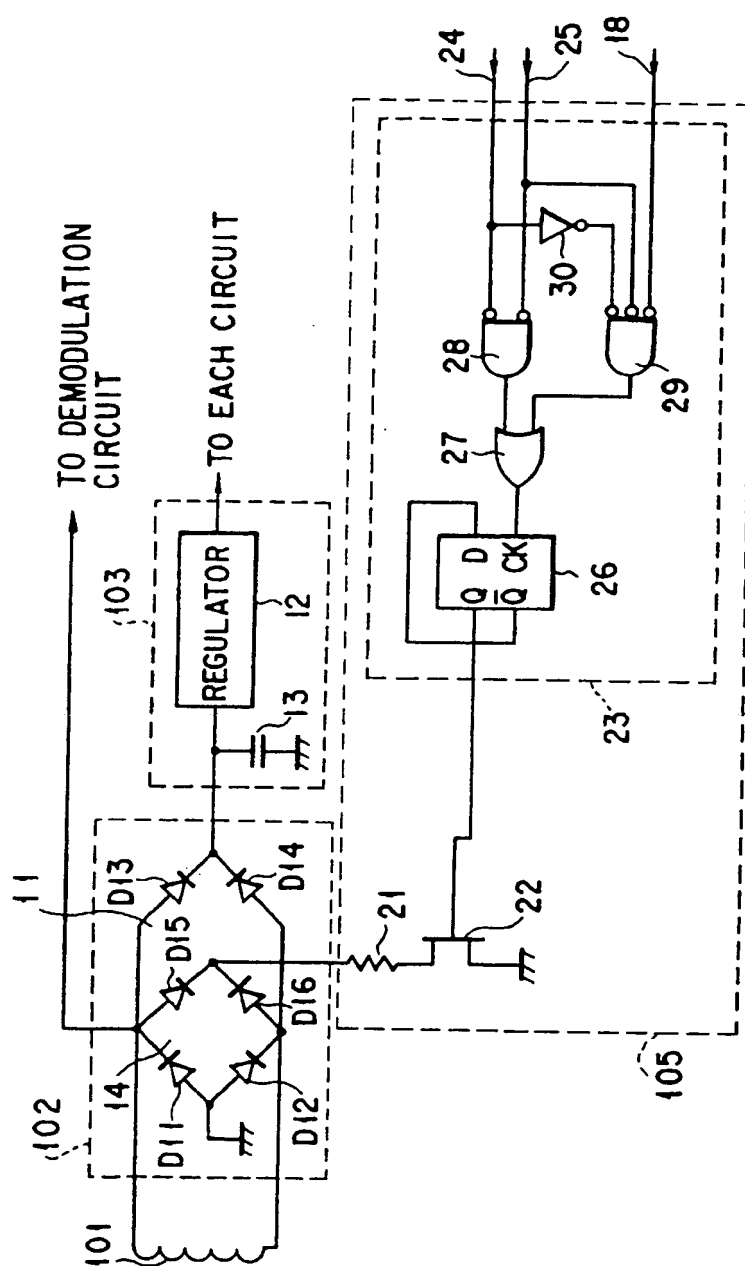
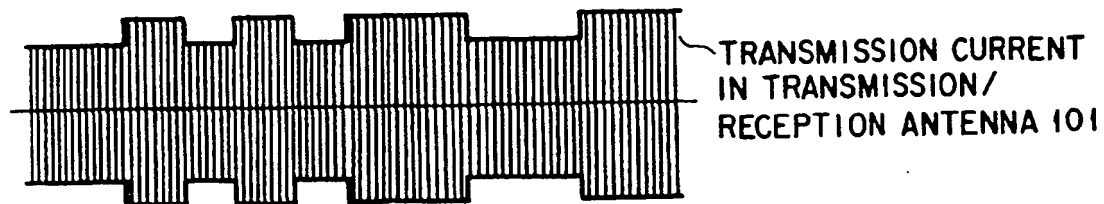
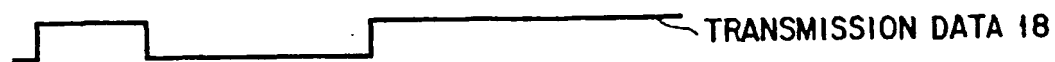


FIG. 3



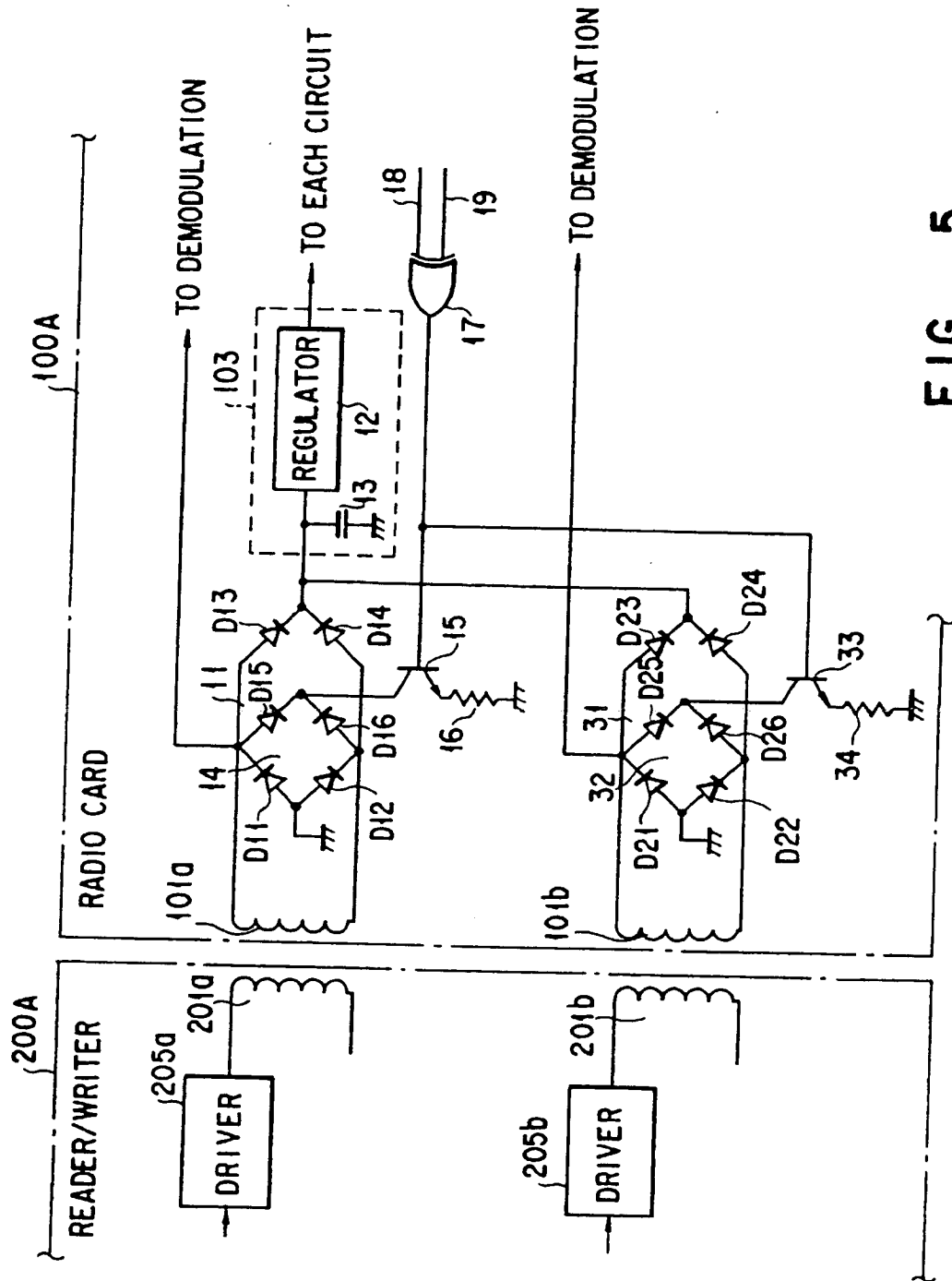


FIG. 5

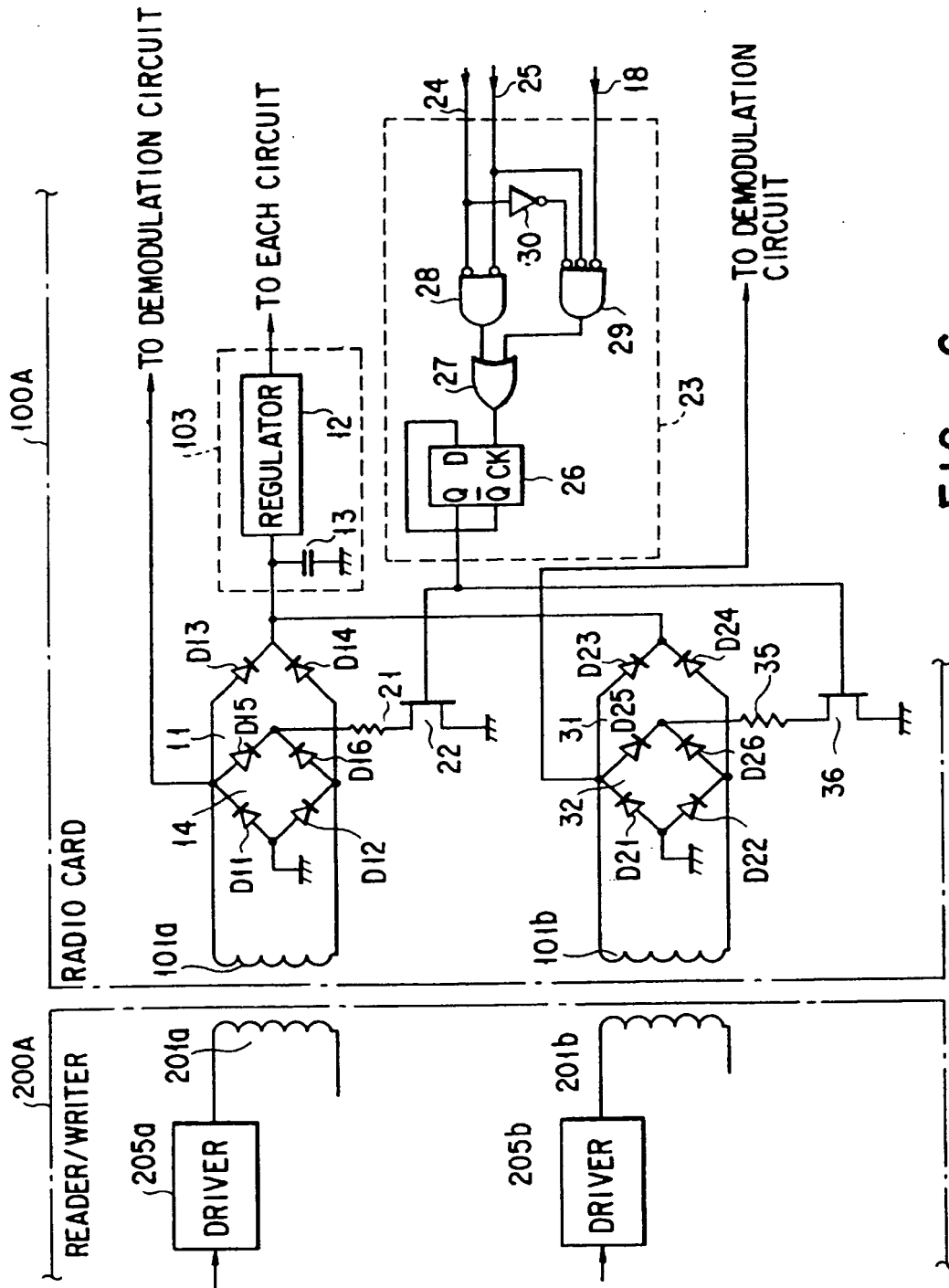
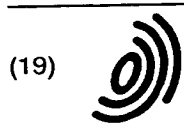


FIG. 6

24



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 831 415 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
03.03.1999 Bulletin 1999/09

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G06K 7/08, G06K 19/07

(43) Date of publication A2:
25.03.1998 Bulletin 1998/13

(21) Application number: 97114751.7

(22) Date of filing: 26.08.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

(30) Priority: 20.09.1996 JP 250154/96

(71) Applicant:
KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA
Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken 210-8572 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

- Yokota, Tsuneshi,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)
- Iwata, Kazuki,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)
- Sudo, Kiyohito,
c/o Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba
Tokyo 105 (JP)

(74) Representative:

Blumbach, Kramer & Partner GbR
Radeckestrasse 43
81245 München (DE)

(54) **No-battery information storage medium capable of efficiently transmitting data**

(57) A no-battery information storage medium (100) has a radio communication function of receiving power while receiving an externally transmitted radio wave as modulated data, and transmitting data outside the medium. One transmission/reception antenna coil (101) performs transmission/reception. A first full-wave rectifying circuit (11) is constituted by four rectifying elements connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil (101). A second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) is constituted by four rectifying elements, including two shared rectifying elements of the four rectifying elements constituting the first full-wave rectifying circuit (11), connected to each other by bridging connection and connected to the two terminals of the transmission/reception antenna coil (101). A power generating means (103) is connected to the output of the first full-wave rectifying circuit to generate power to be used inside the information storage medium (100). A transmission control means (105) is connected to the output of the second full-wave rectifying circuit (14) to substantially change a current in the transmission/reception antenna coil in accordance with transmission data, thereby transmitting the data.

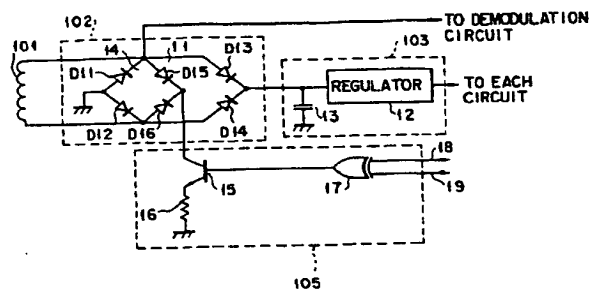


FIG. 2

EP 0 831 415 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 11 4751

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 461 878 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 18 December 1991 * column 4, line 19 - column 5, line 19 * * figure 1 *	1-3,7	G06K7/08 G06K19/07
A	US 4 580 041 A (WALTON CHARLES A) 1 April 1986 * column 2, line 33 - column 3, line 54 *	1	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 441 (E-1264), 14 September 1992 & JP 04 154223 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP), 27 May 1992 * abstract *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 January 1999	Examiner Goossens, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P4/C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 97 11 4751

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-01-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0461878 A	18-12-1991	DE 69130194 D JP 4127291 A	22-10-1998 28-04-1992
US 4580041 A	01-04-1986	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

100